

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus (8) which includes:

a support frame (10);

a CT scanner subsystem (38) rotatably mounted to the frame, the CT scanner subsystem having a gantry (148) defining at least one air passage (542), and a radiator (534) mounted to the gantry;

a plenum (532) which is mounted to the frame so that the gantry rotates relative to the plenum, the plenum and the gantry jointly defining a confined volume; [[and]]

a housing (512) located over the CT scanner subsystem;

an air conditioning unit (528); and

a fan (538), wherein, when the fan is operated, air ~~is directed from the fan~~ follows a recirculation path into the confined volume, from the confined volume into

the air passage, ~~[[and]]~~ from the air passage through the radiator which heats the air, from the radiator into the housing, from the housing to the air conditioning unit which cools the air, and back to the confined volume ~~and wherein the fan controls a ratio of air flow through an air inlet duct (526) and an air return duct (536) so that air in the confined volume is above atmospheric pressure.~~

46. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim 45 which includes~~[[:]]~~

~~an air conditioning unit (528); and~~

a duct (530) connecting the air-conditioning unit with the plenum so that air is directed from the air-conditioning unit through the duct into the confined volume.

47. (Previously presented) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the gantry defines an enclosure, the air being directed from the air passage into the enclosure in the gantry and from the enclosure in the gantry through the radiator.

48. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim 45 which includes tunneling (12, 14, 16) mounted to the support frame and having a first end (42) and a second end (44) opposing the first end, and paneling (510) located around the tunneling and the CT scanner subsystem so that the paneling and the support frame jointly define ~~[[a]]~~ the housing

(512) around the tunneling and the CT scanner subsystem, the housing having an entry aperture (514) in proximity to the first end, and an exit aperture (515) in proximity to the second end of the tunneling and having an air inlet opening (522) wherein the fan is positioned to draw air through the air inlet opening (522), into the housing, the housing, being formed, the entry aperture sealing with the second end of the tunneling to an extent sufficient so that the confines of the housing are at a higher pressure than externally of the housing when the fan draws air into the housing.

49-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim [[51]] 45 wherein the air pressurizes the housing after flowing through the radiator.

53-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim [[55]] 45 wherein the fan is located externally of the housing.

57. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim [[44]] 48, further comprising:

a conveyor system (20) having at least one belt (50), at least partially located in the tunneling, which, upon movement, is capable of transporting an object through at least a portion of the tunneling.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim [[58]] 45, further including an x-ray line scanner subsystem (32) radiating the object prior to being radiated by the CT scanner subsystem.

60. (Currently amended) An x-ray technique-based nonintrusive inspection apparatus according to claim 45, further comprising:

paneling (510) forming the housing around the CT scanner subsystem.

61-67. (Cancelled)